



Southwest Area Incident Management Team

**For Immediate Release
Navajo Mountain Fire**

**Release #5
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Firefighters Increase Containment on Navajo Mountain Fire

Firefighters achieved 45 percent containment Saturday and made significant progress strengthening the fire lines partially enclosing the 3,350 acre Navajo Mountain #1 Fire. The fire is located on the Navajo Reservation 60 miles east of Page, Arizona and next to the communities of Navajo Mountain and Rainbow City.

Today, crews will work in concert with helicopters to monitor the far west side of the fire, which is backing into rock formations that provide a natural barrier to fire spread. Crews will also strengthen existing lines and remove heat sources near the perimeter. Stewart Turner, Fire Behavior Analysis for the Type 1 Southwest Area Incident Management Team said, "Hotter and dryer conditions are forecast for the weekend into Monday, but the fire lines should hold unless the winds pick up substantially."

"Smokes on the northwest and west sides are going to be occasionally visible as interior portions of the fire smolder and unburned fuels flare up during hours of high temperature and low humidity. This fire behavior is expected, is monitored, and will probably continue on the western parts of the mountain until the monsoon rains arrive," Turner added.

Residential areas in the lower elevations of the mountain are no longer thought to be in danger. The mountaintop communications site is also thought to be similarly secure. "We've worked exceptionally hard at subduing the sides of the fire that could pose a threat to structures and now we'll have to monitor the rest until it receives good moisture," said Duane Archuleta, Operations Section Chief.

Due to safety issues there is a general closure for all roads and trails on Navajo Mountain. On Sunday morning 465 personnel were assigned to the firefighting effort. Seven hot shot crews will be fighting the fire today, teamed up with 3 Skycranes and five other helicopters. "We released several engines today and expect to be able to send even more resources to other large fires in the next few days," said Incident Commander Dan Oltrogge.

For more information, call Navajo Mountain Fire Information:

1-866-525-8173 or 1-866-525-8174

E-mail: Oltroggeswimt@yahoo.com

For maps and photographs of the incident, visit:

<http://fireteam-sw.com/oltrogge/current.htm>

A burn ban is in place for the Navajo Nation. This includes no open flame, no burning of trash or vegetation, and smoking in buildings or vehicles only. Propane stoves are allowed.

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